

Washington, DC - Veterans eligible for education benefits under the Webb-Mitchell Post-9/11 GI Bill are able to apply for benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs online beginning today, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) announced. Members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated reservists and members of the National Guard, receive up to four academic years of education benefits, including stipends for housing and books. Veterans will have up to 15 years after they leave active duty to use their education benefits.

### **Congressman Travis Childers Announces Processing of Applications for GI Bill Benefits to Begin Today**

#### ***Eligible Veterans Able to Apply Online***

May 1, 2009

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Applicants can apply through an online form at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf>. Payments will be processed beginning August 1.

"We have a responsibility to serve those who bravely served us," Congressman Childers said. "These important, earned GI benefits will allow veterans to receive the first rate education they deserve and enable them to gain the skills they need to secure good-paying jobs back home. I am extremely proud of the honorable men and women from North Mississippi who serve our country, and encourage them to apply for these significant benefits."

In June 2008, the bipartisan Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (H.R. 5740)

passed as part of the FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Under the legislation:

- Service members, including those returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, can receive up to 36 months of education benefits, including stipends for housing and books.
- Veterans would have up to 15 years after they leave active duty to use their education benefits.
- Veterans would have the ability to use their benefits for program fees, tuition, books and housing.
- Veterans would be able to use the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, in which the federal government will match, dollar for dollar, any voluntary additional contributions to veterans from institutions whose tuition is more expensive than the maximum educational assistance provided under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.
- Benefits are applicable for apprenticeships, vocational schools, and other non-traditional post-secondary educational settings.

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